Manitoba

Annual Report 1988 - 89

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

Manitoba

90-00806/

Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

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Honourable Jim McCrae
Attorney General
104 Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba
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Dear Sir:

On behalf of The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, we are pleased to present our annual report in accordance with Section 27 of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act

This annual report covers the 12 month fiscal period from April 1, 1988 to March 31, 1989.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian King
Chairperson

Elaine Smith
Commissioner

Harry Mesman
Commissioner

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Introduction

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Act was passed on July 16, 1970 and provides that injured victims of crime, or their dependents, be eligible for benefits in an amount similar to compensation paid to workers under The Workers Compensation Act. The intent of the Act was to ensure that any innocent victim of crime or any person injured as a result of assisting a Peace Officer should not be placed in a position of undue financial hardship.

At that time, the administrative system already in place for Workers Compensation appeared to be the most appropriate system for addressing the needs of processing Criminal Injuries Compensation claims. Therefore, in 1971 the Workers Compensation Board was designated to administer the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act as the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

Funding for Criminal Injuries Compensation comes from the Consolidated Fund of the Province of Manitoba through the offices of the Attorney-General, and the Workers Compensation Board is reimbursed an administrative fee to provide services. A portion of funding is also received from the Federal Government through the Department of Justice.

This annual report reviews general information about Criminal Injuries Compensation. As well, departmental information, relevant statistical tables and graphs, and a statement of claims costs is provided.

Year In Review

- July 25, 1988, the Board of Commissioners approved a new appeal procedure. See page 9 for detailed explanation of procedure.
- Criminal code offences were re-numbered and as a result, have been changed in the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act.
- The Freedom of Information Act was approved and became effective October 1, 1988. Access Officers were appointed and participated in training through the Department of the Attorney General.
- A change in Financial presentation has been implemented. See the Notes to Financial Statement.

Looking Ahead

- Manitoba will participate in a Federal Government Department of Justice Criminal Injuries Compensation Management Information System project.

  This is a computerized statistical information project that will provide greater detail and information of Criminal Injuries claim population.
- An information manual will be made available to interested groups and victim service organizations. This manual will outline the legislation, as well as procedural aspects of claims processing.

General Information

Claims for assistance are made directly to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. Any person who is an innocent victim of crime and sustains an injury, or anyone who is injured or killed while attempting to arrest any person, preserve the peace or assist a Peace Officer, may file a claim. This is also applicable to any person who is the surviving spouse, parent, child or dependent of such a victim. The crime must be of the type listed in Schedule I attached to the Act. A copy of Schedule I is provided on Page 23.

Under the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act, a report must be made by the injured victim to the police as soon as possible and the victim must co-operate with the police in apprehension of the offender. A person responsible for the crime or an accomplice to the crime is not eligible to receive an award.

The Act requires that the claim be filed within two years of the injury or death. It is only in very exceptional circumstances, as determined by the Board, that the time limit may be extended.

Two of the pre-requisites in making a claim are that a crime within the schedule of crimes listed in the Act was committed (or peace preserving assistance took place), and that such event directly resulted in injury or death of the victim.

Benefits available to injured victims of crime, or their dependents in case of fatality, include 75% of wages up to the legislated maximum under The Workers Compensation Act.

Monies are also available to cover expenses related to clothing, prescription drugs, broken eyeglasses, artificial limbs and dental expenses provided a minimum loss of $150.00 is incurred. Assistance toward funeral expenses is also available.

Loss of money on the victim's person or kept by the victim in any place at the time of the crime, or loss/damage to personal property other than clothing, eyeglasses, dentures is not covered. Under the Act in Manitoba, payment is not made for pain and suffering.

All monies received by the victim or dependent in respect of the injury/death (including private insurance, restitution, etc.), are deductible from Criminal Injuries benefits.

Rehabilitation services including counselling and referral to appropriate agencies is available to assist victims of crime when it is identified that such assistance would be of benefit.

There is no cost to a victim in the filing and processing of claims. Once the claim has been filed, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board gathers all necessary documentation to process the claim, and the decision is forwarded directly to the claimant. An appeal process is available if the claimant is not satisfied with the Board's decision, and the information regarding this is provided to the claimant when they are notified of the Board's decision.

In Manitoba there are no residence exclusions in claiming for Criminal Injuries Compensation. The crime must have occurred within the boundaries of the Province of Manitoba, but the victim does not have to be a Manitoba resident.

Departmental Information

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board staff consists of a Registrar, an Assistant to the Registrar, and a secretary for clerical and typing services.

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board of Commissioners, which is also The Workers Compensation Board of Commissioners establishes policies and criteria for the oprations of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, and support services are provided by the Finance/Accounting, Medical Services and Vocational Rehabilitation Services Department of the Workers Compensation Board.

Processing of criminal injury claims takes place in consultation with various departments of the Workers Compensation Board.

Adjudication and Appeals

1st Level — Initial Adjudication

(a) Claims Decisions — The Registrar or Assistant to the Registrar evaluates a claim, decides if it qualifies, and either approves or rejects the claim. This includes initial claims or claims for recurrence of signs and symptoms of a previous compensable injury. The Registrar or Assistant to the Registrar then decides the compensation rate based on information supplied and the period of time loss based on medical information.

(b) Medical Aid Decisions — The Registrar or Assistant to the Registrar, in consultation with the Medical Aid Clerk, evaluates requests for any necessary treatment, hospitalization, nursing, prescribed drugs, artificial limbs, eyeglasses, transportation expenses, etc., that are related to the claim for compensation.

Process of Appeal:

IF additional information is submitted which might affect the decision in any of the above instances, or if an issue is being raised that was not considered in the original decision, the matter is reconsidered by the person who made the original decision.

IF the submission does not contain additional information or does not raise a new issue or a change cannot be made in the initial decision, the claim file is referred directly to the Criminal Injuries Claims Committee.

2nd Level — Committee

(a) Claims Decisions (including Medical Aid) — The *Criminal Injuries Claims Committee* considers all claims decisions appeals where the initial decision cannot be changed or amended to the satisfaction of the appellant by the previous level. This Committee may conduct further investigations into the claim and has the authority to approve or deny compensation. This Committee may also reconsider any of its previous decisions *but only* if the appellant:

  (a) Raises an issue previously not addressed.

  (b) Submits evidence or information not previously available.

The Criminal Injuries Claims Committee may refer a claim file to a Medical Review Panel.

Criminal Injuries Compensation Act, Section 26(2) *Reference by board in its discretion.*

"Where in any application under this Act a medical matter arises in which the board desires a further opinion, the board may refer the matter to a panel for its opinion in respect of the matter."

A difference of medical opinion is not a requirement in Section 26(2) as it is in Section 26(3) of the Criminal Injuries Act and 67(4) of The Workers Compensation Act.

(b) Rehabilitation Decisions — *The Criminal Injuries Claims Committee* considers all appeals where the issue is in the provision of rehabilitation services and benefits.

Process of Appeal:

IF additional information is submitted which might affect the adjudication decision, or if an issue is being raised that was not considered in the original decision, this will be considered by the Criminal Injuries Claims Committee.

IF a written appeal to a Criminal Injuries Claims Committee decision is received, the matter is referred to a Review Officer who may make arrangements for a Board Hearing.

Final Level — Board of Commissioners

The part appealing previous decisions may request either a Board Review or a Board Hearing. The Board of Commissioners may request additional field investigations, conduct its own investigation, or may refer the matter to an appropriate independent medical specialist or panel of specialists for medical input before reaching a conclusion.

(a) Board Review — This review deals simply with the information that is already on the file, as well as any new written submissions.

(b) Board Hearing — The appellant/counsel may verbally present their case to the Board of Commissioners. Additional information or a new issue will be considered.

It is recommended that all additional information and/or issue(s) be presented at the Board Review or Board Hearing, as this is the final level of appeal. Following the Board of Commissioners consideration of the case, all parties concerned will be notified of their decision and the criteria on which the decision was based.

Appeal Statistics:

These statistics cover the period April 1, 1988 to March 31, 1989.

Number of files considered by Criminal Injuries Claims Committee,	50

Breakdown of Decisions

Claim accepted,	6
Claims denied,	27
Permanent disability awards granted,	7
Appeals denied,	9
Appeals accepted,	1
Total	50

Number of files considered by the Board of Commissioners,	2

Breakdown of Decisions

Committee decision rescinded,	0
Committee decision amended,	0
Committee decision confirmed,	2
Referred to Medical Review Panel,	0
Total	2

Manitoba

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

Report of The Provincial Auditor's Office

We have examined the financial statements, being Exhibits A, B and C, of The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1989. Our examination was made in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, and accordingly included such tests and other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the Board as at March 31, 1989 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in note 2 to the financial statements applied, after giving retroactive effect to the change in the method of accounting for pension obligations and rehabilitation claims and except for the change in the method of accounting for temporary disability and medical claims as described in note 3 to the financial statements, on a basis consistent with the preceding period.

June 23, 1989
Winnipeg, Manitoba

F.H. Jackson, CA
Provincial Auditor

Exhibit A
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

Balance Sheet

As at March 31, 1989
(with 1988 figures for comparison)

	1989	1988
ASSETS		
Receivable from the Province of Manitoba for current year deficiency	$ 104,479	$ 153,444
Long term receivable from the Province of Manitoba for future cost provision	16,806,956	16,084,209
	$16,911,435	$16,237,653
LIABILITIES AND PROVISIONS		
Bank indebtedness	$ 104,479	$ 153,444
Provision for future costs, Exhibit C (Note 3):		
Pension obligations	15,813,070	15,575,509
Future cost of existing claims	993,886	508,700
	16,806,956	16,084,209
	$16,911,435	$16,237,653

Exhibit B
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

Statement of Operations

for the year ended March 31, 1989
(with 1988 figures for comparison)

	1989	1988
Revenues:		
Province of Manitoba:		
Current year	$ 1,647,029	$ 1,488,618
Increase in provision for future costs	722,747	2,917,171
Recoveries — restitution, insurance	19,858	3,008
Bank interest, net of charges	1,544	377
Total revenues	2,391,178	4,409,174
Operating Costs:		
Pensions	1,027,869	939,251
Temporary disability	391,848	333,725
Medical aid	171,957	156,192
Rehabilitation	56,899	59,827
Increase in provision for future costs (note 3)	722,747	2,917,171
	2,371,320	4,406,166
Remittance of recoveries to Province of Manitoba	19,858	3,008
Total operating costs	2,391,178	4,409,174
	$ —	$ —

Exhibit C
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

Statement of Provision for Future Costs

for the year ended March 31, 1989
(with 1988 figures for comparison)

	1989	1988
Provision for future costs beginning of year	$ 16,084,209	$ 13,167,038
Increase in provision for future costs	722,747	2,917,171
Provision for future costs end of year	$ 16,806,956	$ 16,084,209

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

Notes to Financial Statement

for the year ended March 31, 1989

1. **Authority and Operations**

   The Criminal Injuries Compensation Act provides that injured victims of crime, or their dependents, be eligible for benefits in an amount similar to compensation paid to workers under The Workers Compensation Act. The intent of the Act is to ensure that any innocent victim of crime or any person injured as a result of assisting a Peace Officer should not be placed in a position of undue financial hardship.

   Under an Order of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, The Workers Compensation Board (W.C.B.) was designated to administer The Criminal Injuries Compensation Act. All charges for the administration of the Act are paid from the Consolidated Fund of the Government of the Province of Manitoba through an appropriation of the Department of the Attorney-General.

2. **Accounting Policies**

   The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the following accounting policies which are considered appropriate for this organization.

   (a) Receivables

   All costs of administering the Act are paid out of the Consolidated Fund under section 24(1) of the Act. Consequently any operational deficiencies are recoverable from the Province of Manitoba.

   (b) Provision for Future Costs

   (i) Pension Obligations

   Capitalized values of pensions awarded are credited to the pension obligations provision which is then charged with pensions paid. The capitalized values are calculated using a 3% discount rate which provides for the estimated cost of anticipated future increases in pension benefits.

   The pension obligations provision was estimated by the Board utilizing independent actuarial methodology employed by The Workers Compensation Board in determining their obligations.

   (ii) Future Cost of Existing Claims

   This provision is the estimated amount required to meet the future cost of compensation, rehabilitation and medical aid claims incurred prior to March 31, 1989.

   An independent actuarial review as at March 31, 1989 established the adequacy of this provision.

(c) Administration Expenses

Transactions in respect of benefit payments of the Board are processed by The Workers Compensation Board (W.C.B.). Consequently, administration expenses, such as W.C.B. staff salaries and other operating expenses, are billed to and paid from the appropriation of the Department of Attorney-General and are reflected in the accounts of W.C.B. For the year ended March 31, 1989, the W.C.B. incurred $158,542 (March 31, 1988 — $151,933) for administering the Act which was reimbursed by the Province of Manitoba.

3. **Changes in Accounting Policies**

The Board adopted an accrual basis of accounting for the current year as described in Note 2. Previously, a cash basis of accounting was used. As a result, a balance sheet (Exhibit A), a statement of operations (Exhibit B) and a statement of provision for future costs (Exhibit C) are included for the first time in these financial statements to provide a more appropriate presentation of the transactions of the Board. These changes have been implemented as follows:

The provision for future costs with respect to pension obligations and rehabilitation claims have been reflected on a retroactive basis.

The provision for future costs with respect to temporary disability and medical aid claims have been reflected on a prospective basis for 1989 only.

The effect of these changes in accounting policy is to increase the provision for future costs by $16,806,956 (1988 — $16,084,209), the receivable from the Province of Manitoba by $16,911,435 (1988 — $16,237,653) and bank indebtedness by $104,479 (1988 — $153,444) on Exhibit A and to increase the expense for future costs on Exhibit B by $722,747 (1988 — $2,917,171).

4. **Comparative Figures**

Certain figures for the year ended March 31, 1988 have been restated to conform with the presentation adopted for the current year.

Introduction to the Statistical Section

Table I documents the disposition of claims for the period April 1, 1988, to March 31, 1989, with comparative statistics for the previous period. There were 48 claims held over from the previous year, pending further police, medical, or employment information.

Table II records the type of claim approved. Schedule I of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act outlines the type of crimes for which Criminal Injuries Compensation can be made. The schedule is illustrated on page 23. A claim may also be made for injury or death from an attempt to arrest any person, preserve the peace or assist a Peace Officer.

Table III is an analysis of claims benefits paid for the ten pear period from 1980. This documents temporary and permanent disability payments, rehabilitation cash benefits and other benefit costs.

Table IV provides statistical information which outlines a complete breakdown of "other benefit costs" paid for the period April 1, 1988 to March 31, 1989. This section also provides comparison figures from the last annual report.

Table V presents information regarding the number of claims processed over a ten year period. The reasons for non-acceptance of claims are explained in "most frequent reasons for non-acceptance of claims" on page 22.

Figure I illustrates the ages of victims for which claims have been filed. The 21-30 age group has been identified previously as the greatest number of victims.

Figure II illustrates the employment and income status of applicants.

Figure III provides a comparison of the sex of the victims for which Criminal Injuries claims were filed. The percentage of male victims remains significantly higher than females.

Figure IV illustrates the crime occurrence area of the province for which claims were filed. Winnipeg has the highest number of applicants. This could be due to the fact that over one-half of the population resides in Winnipeg.

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Table I
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board — Manitoba

Disposition of Claims

for the period April 1, 1988 to March 31, 1989
(with comparative statistics for the previous period)

	1989	1988
Applications Carried Over From Previous Year	48	28
Applications Received	338	388
	386	416
Applications Carried Over to Next Year	10	48
TOTAL APPLICATIONS PROCESSED	376	368
Breakdown of Applications Processed —		
Approved	285	300
Refused	87	58
Not Pursued by Applicant	4	10
Withdrawn	—	—
Referred to the Workers Compensation Board	—	—
	376	368

Table II
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board — Manitoba

Approved Claims

for the period April 1, 1988 to March 31, 1989

Under Schedule I	1989
Careless use of a firearm	1
Sexual intercourse with a female under 14 years	1
Causing bodily harm by criminal negligence	1
Murder	7
Attempted Murder	34
Causing bodily harm with intent	1
Assault	62
Assault with a weapon	108
Aggravated assault	5
Sexual assault	10
Sexual assault with a weapon	4
Aggravated sexual assault	2
Robbery	46
Mischief causing actual danger to life	2
	284
Assisting A Peace Officer/Good Samaritan Attempt	1
	285

Note: No figures from previous year as Criminal Code offences have been changed.

Table III
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board — Manitoba

Claims Benefits Paid by Year

Year Ended March 31	Temporary Disability	Permanent Disability	Other Benefit Costs*	Rehabilitation Cash Benefits	Total
1989	$391,848	$1,027,869	$171,957	$56,899	$1,648,573
1988	$333,725	$ 939,251	$156,192	$59,827	$1,488,995
1987	$216,145	$ 825,694	$160,045	$55,624	$1,257,508
1986	$247,522	$ 613,997	$ 84,444	$70,085	$1,016,048
1985	$298,797	$ 641,589	$ 99,237	$84,231	$1,123,854
1984	$392,365	$ 442,048	$100,159	$50,799	$ 985,371
1983	$343,931	$ 371,579	$ 70,656	$14,401	$ 800,567
1982	$248,716	$ 299,486	$ 52,513	$ 5,285	$ 606,000
1981	$140,754	$ 259,038	$ 47,604	$ 1,113	$ 448,509
1980	$148,267	$ 243,275	$ 29,644	$ 200	$ 421,386

See Table IV for details.

Table IV
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board — Manitoba

Other Benefits Paid

for the period April 1, 1988 to March 31, 1989
(with comparative figures for the previous period)

	1989	1988
Attendants Allowance	43,924	41,435
Dental Treatment	33,655	21,580
Medical Reporting Fees	22,081	19,488
Clothing Replacement	13,875	14,980
Psychological Counselling Fees	11,423	4,740
Travel Expenses	9,624	9,111
Funeral Expenses	8,937	10,020
Eyeglass Replacement	8,440	6,330
Ambulance Expenses	8,130	6,801
Drug Expenses	3,516	3,499
Sundry	3,381	3,581
Physiotherapy Treatment	3,213	3,237
Appliances	918	3,372
Chiropractic Treatment	680	946
Nurses	160	0
In patient Accounts	0	6,064
Out patient Accounts	0	1,048
Total	171,957	156,192

Table V
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board — Manitoba

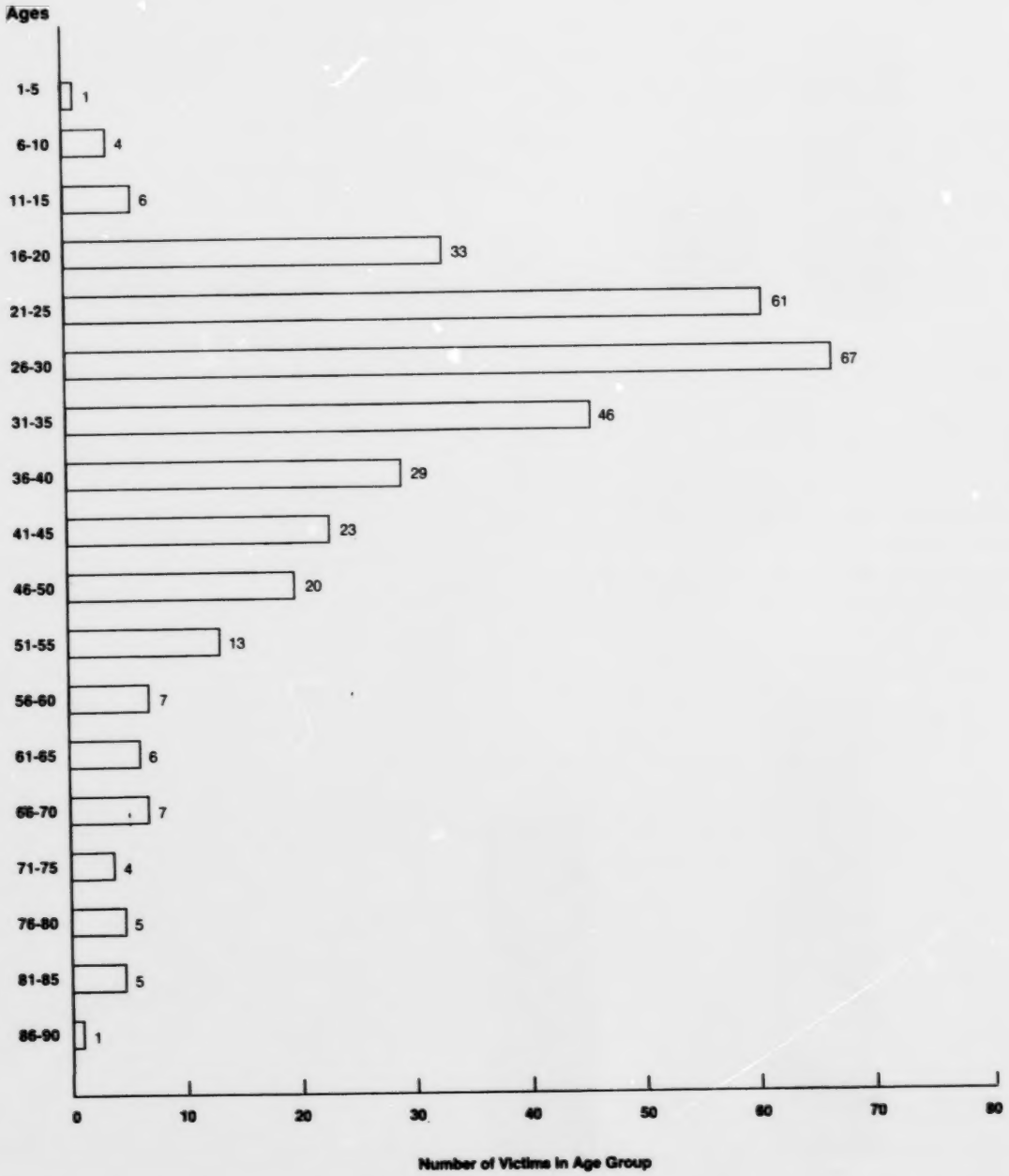
Number of Claims Processed by Year

Year Ended March 31	Approved	Refused	Referred to Workers Compensation Board
1989	285	87	0
1988	300	58	0
1987	300	54	0
1986	198	23	0
1985	197	29	0
1984	257	36	2
1983	166	64	2
1982	125	50	1
1981	119	50	6
1980	79	37	1

Figure I
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board

Claims Filed*

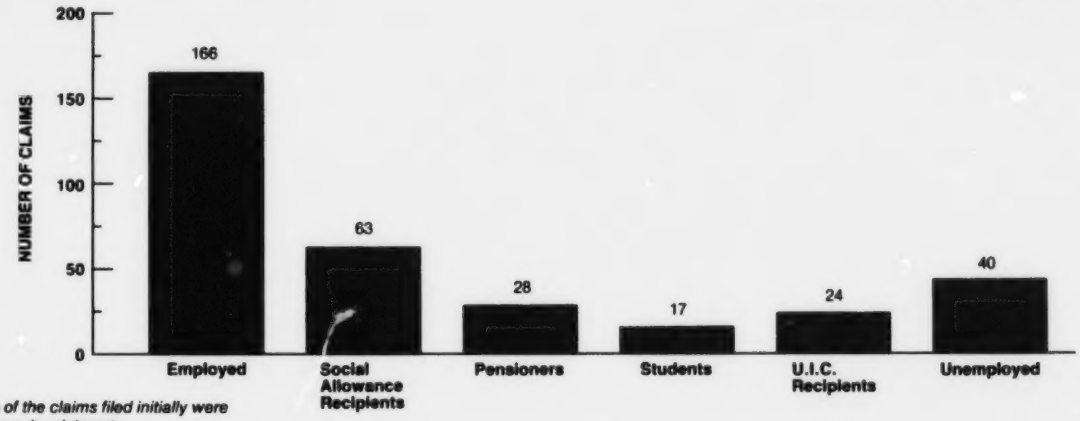
for the period April 1, 1988 to March 31, 1989
(based on information filed initially)



*Some of the claims filed initially were withdrawn by claimants.

Figure II
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
Claims Filed*
for the period April 1, 1988 to March 31, 1989
(based on information filed initially)

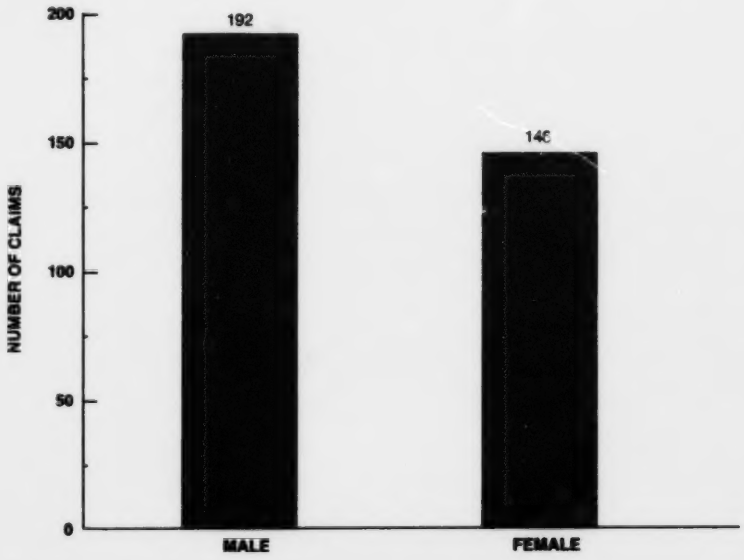
Employment Status of Victims



Some of the claims filed initially were withdrawn by claimants.

Figure III
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
Claims Filed*
for the period April 1, 1988 to March 31, 1989
(based on information filed initially)

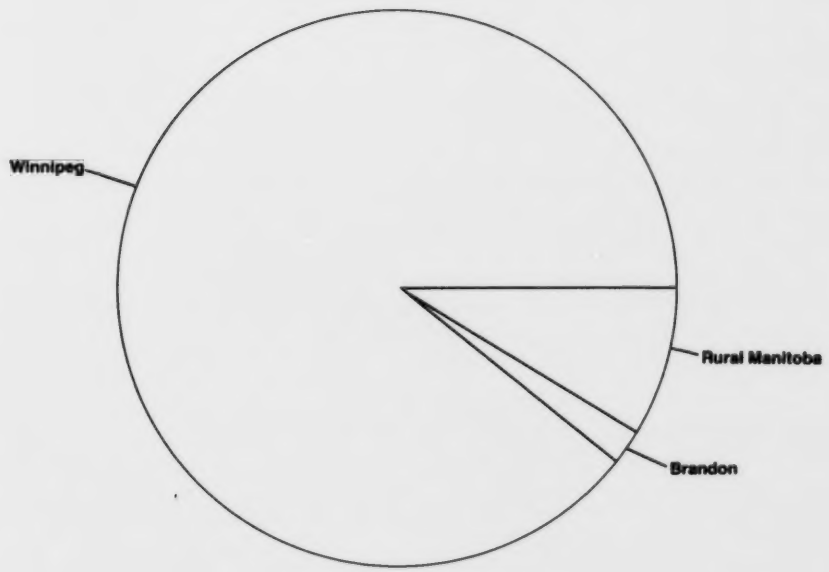
Sex of Victims



Some of the claims filed initially were withdrawn by claimants.

Figure IV
The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board
Claims Filed*
for the period April 1, 1988 to March 31, 1989
(based on information filed initially)

Crime Occurrence Area of Province



Winnipeg = 296 Claims
Brandon = 5 Claims
Rural Manitoba = 37 Claims

**Some of the claims filed initially were withdrawn by claimants.*

Most Frequent Reasons for Non-Acceptance of Claims

	1989	1988
SECTION 6(2)(a)		
"Except as may be otherwise permitted by this Act, the board shall not make an order for compensation where the application for compensation is made after the expiration of 2 years from the date of the injury or death as the case may be."	1	2
SECTION 6(2)(b)		
"Except as may be otherwise permitted by this Act, the board shall not make an order for compensation where the crime of violence giving rise to the claim was not reported within a reasonable time after the happening thereof to the proper law enforcement officers, or if reported, the claimant did not render the assistance in the apprehension of the offender as he might reasonably be expected."	29	27
SECTION 6(2)(c)		
"Except as may be otherwise permitted by this Act, the board shall not make an order for compensation where the victim participated in, or was in collusion with the person committing the crime as a result of which injury to or death of the victim occurred."	1	0
SECTION 6(2)(d)		
"Except as may be otherwise permitted by this Act, the board shall not make an order for compensation where, in the opinion of the board, the person who committed the crime as a result of which the injury to or the death of the victim occurred would benefit directly from any compensation granted under this Act."	1	0
SECTION 11(1)		
"The board, in making or in declining to make an order for payment of compensation, shall consider and take into account all circumstances as it considers relevant to the making of the order and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, the board shall consider and take into account the character of the applicant and any behaviour that directly or indirectly contributed to the injury or death of the victim."	16	13
SCHEDULE 1		
No evidence of a crime under the Schedule of crimes under the Act.	39	16
	87	58

Schedule I

Section of Criminal Code	Description of Offence
65	taking part in a riot
76	hijacking of aircraft
77	endangering safety of aircraft in flight
78	taking on board a civilian aircraft offensive weapons and explosive substances
80	failure to take reasonable care in relation to explosives where death or bodily harm results
81	causing explosion of explosive substances with intent to do bodily harm or endanger life
86	unlawful pointing of firearm; careless use, carriage, handling etc. of firearm or ammunition
153	sexual intercourse with female under age 14; sexual intercourse with female between 14 and 16
180	common nuisance causing physical injury
215	failure to provide necessaries of life
218	abandoning child and endagering its life
220	causing death by criminal negligence
221	causing bodily harm by criminal negligence
235	murder
236	manslaughter
239	attempted murder
244	causing bodily harm with intent
245	administering poison or other destructive or noxious things
246	overcoming resistance to commission of offence
247	traps likely to cause bodily harm
258	dangerous operation of vessel or aircraft; dangerous operation of vessel or aircraft causing bodily harm; dangerous operation of vessel or aircraft causing death
260	operation of vessel or aircraft while impaired by alcohol or with more than 80 mgs. of alcohol in 100 mililitres of blood
262	impeding attempt to save life
266	assault
267	assault with weapon; assault causing bodily harm
268	aggravated assault
269	unlawfully causing bodily harm
270	assault on public or peace officers, persons enforcing, etc.
271	sexual assault
272	sexual assault with weapon, threats to a third party, causing bodily harm
273	aggravated sexual assault
279	kidnapping, illegal confinement
287	procuring miscarriage
343	robbery
423	intimidation by violence (ss(1) para. (a))
433	arson
436	causing fire resulting in loss of life
437	false fire alarm
999	assisting a peace officer

Victim/Witness Services

Victim Services

Services for this program are provided by the Winnipeg Police Department, and the type of assistance provided includes:

1. Information regarding the progress of the case investigation and the recovery and return of any stolen property.
2. Assistance in understanding the procedures and practices of the Criminal Justice System.
3. Referral to the appropriate community agency for counselling services, legal advice, health care, etc., as required.
4. Referral to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board for victims injured as the result of a crime.
5. Emotional and moral support will be provided throughout the case. This is especially important to victims of violent crimes.

Older Victim Services

There are services available to retired persons or those over the age of 60 through the Age and Opportunity Centre, Inc. Services are essentially the same as outlined under Victim Services.

Victim Assistance Committee

On January 1, 1987 the Justice For Victim's of Crime Act (Manitoba) was proclaimed. This legislation includes three major features; a Declaration of Principles; the creation of a Victim's Assistance Committee and the creation of a Victim's Assistance Fund.

The Victim's Assistance Fund is a separate fund to be used for the development of services and programs for victims. Financial resources for the fund are generated through the imposition of a surcharge on existing non-bylaw provincial fines. The legislation also provides for the surcharge of $25.00 in a case where a fine is not a part of final disposition of the court.

Any person or organization may apply for funding of research, information or a victim services project.

For further information please contact the Victim's Assistance Committee, 5th Floor, Woodsworth Building, 405 Broadway, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Victim/Witness Assistance Program

The Victim/Witness Assistance Program is not a part of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, however, this is a support program and public awareness of this service is important. It is for this reason that information has been included in the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board Annual Report.

The purpose of the Victim/Witness Assistance Program is to provide a support service to people who have become the victim of a crime or those who are innocently involved in the criminal justice system.

Victim/Witness Assistance is provided through a reception centre located on the 4th Floor, Law Courts, 408 York Avenue. The program is staffed by a Coordinator, a Witness Worker and a number of volunteers who have been familiarized with the criminal justice system.

It is the responsibility of staff to promptly notify witnesses of cancellations. Witnesses attending at the reception centre will be advised who the crown attorney is and will receive answers to any questions they may have.

Crown witnesses also wait in the reception center before being called which means they no longer have to sit in the same room with the accused or defence lawyer. After giving evidence, they may remain, if they wish, with other spectators in the court room.

Interpretation services are provided when needed and referrals are made to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board when appropriate.

Informational brochures are distributed with all court subpoenas and throughout the province in cooperation with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

The Victim/Witness Program is funded through the Attorney-General of Manitoba.